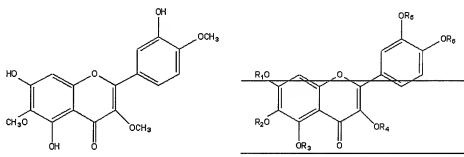


# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting elongation of melanocytic dendrites comprising:

a step of applying Centaureidina compound represented by the following general formula (1) and/or a salt thereof to the skin of an individual in need thereof, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:



formula (1)

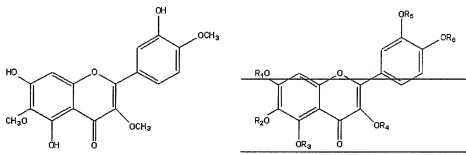
wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ , and  $R_6$  each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl group.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) The method for inhibiting elongation of melanocytic dendrites according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the skin has dyschromatosis on which tyrosinase inhibitors have insufficient effect.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting elongation of melanocytic dendrites comprising applying a skin preparation for external use comprising 0.005 to 5% by weight of Centaureidina compound represented by the following general formula (1) and/or a salt thereof to an individual in need thereof, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:



formula (1)

wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, and R<sub>6</sub> each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1</sub>-<sub>4</sub> alkyl group.

13. (Previously presented) The method for inhibiting elongation of melanocytic dendrites according to claim 12, wherein the skin preparation for external use is a cosmetic.